

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action dated August 9, 2004, the Assignee respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Assignee respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (the "Office") rejected the pending claims. Claims 1, 3, 5, and 8-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,457,010 to Eldering *et al.* in view of Published U.S. Application 2003/0067554 to Klarfeld *et al.* Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 17, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over *Klarfeld* in view of *Eldering*. The Assignee shows, however, that the pending claims are not obviated by the combination of *Klarfeld* and *Eldering*, and the Assignee thus respectfully submits that the pending claims distinguish over said combination.

New Claims 21-37

This amendment presents new claims 21-37. Claims 1-20 have been canceled. Claims 21-37 require an excess claim fee of \$306 (\$18 x 17). New independent claims 21, 27, and 32 also require an excess claim fee of \$264 (\$88 x 3). The total excess claim fee is thus \$570, and check #1591 is enclosed.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 5, and 8-16

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 8-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,457,010 to Eldering *et al.* in view of Published U.S. Application 2003/0067554 to Klarfeld *et al.* Claims 1, 3, 5, and 8-16, however, have been canceled, so the rejection is moot.

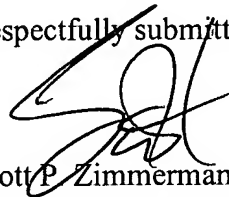
Rejection of Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 17, 19, and 20

U.S. Application No. 10/017,630 Examiner OUELLETTE, Art Unit 3629
Submission of Amendment with RCE

Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 17, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over *Klarfeld* in view of *Eldering*. Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 17, 19, and 20, however, have been canceled, so the rejection is moot.

If any issues remain outstanding, the Office is requested to contact the undersigned at (919) 387-6907 or scott@scottzimmerman.com.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott P. Zimmerman
Attorney for the Assignee
Reg. No. 41,390